



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Governmental & Legislative  
Affairs Director

August 4, 2015

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1161 (Olsen) – Preschool Privately Funded Pilot Tax Credit Program  
As amended July 2, 2015 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Lara:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1161, legislation that would create a pilot program to utilize private sector investment to increase access to preschool for low income families.

In San Bernardino County, the need for early learning programs far exceeds the funding available to fulfill the early education needs. During the 2014-15 school year, the County served 589 State Preschool children, while 247 children remained on a waitlist, representing 42% of our State enrollment.

In San Bernardino County, 29% of children under the age of six live below poverty level. This staggering statistic coupled with the inaccessibility of Preschool slots exemplifies the need for AB 1161.

This legislation establishes a five-year pilot program that incentivizes investment into a newly established state fund, the California Preschool Investment Fund (CalPIF). Individuals and businesses investing in CalPIF will receive tax credits for their investment. CalPIF funds will be allocated to the State Preschool Program, which will allow more slots to be made available in the pilot program counties; thereby, allowing more low-income children to enroll in high quality preschool programs.

Increasing accessibility to quality preschool education is a profitable investment. Research indicates that during preschool years and beyond, children who attend quality preschool: are less likely to be placed in special education or held back a grade; exhibit more positive classroom behaviors and perform better on standardized math and reading tests; are more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education; earn more money; less likely to go on welfare; and are less likely to become involved in crime.

A 2012 report provides solid evidence that preschool education is an effective way to place children, at an early age, on the right path to avoid costly societal problems later. *For every dollar invested, society gained approximately \$16 in return.* AB 1161 provides an innovative solution to invest in much-needed Preschool slots and allow access to early education for children living in low income families.

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For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully requests an “Aye” vote on AB 1161. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a stylized, flowing script.

JAMES RAMOS  
Board of Supervisors Chairman  
Third District Supervisor  
County of San Bernardino

c: The Honorable Kristin Olsen, California State Assemblymember  
Honorable Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee  
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation